

WRESTLING FORUM

APRIL 15, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 7

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THIS ONE'S A LITTLE LIGHTER...

Before we get on to other business, I'd like to thank those of you who sent in encouraging words and suggestions as to how to both improve the bulletin at the same time cutting costs. This issue we are taking one of the suggestions by decreasing the size by just one sheet (four pages total). This is only a temporary move. With the lull after Wrestlingmania, it seems that everyone has gone to sleep. Really about the only thing you'll find missing is from this issue is the Third Fall which is just on a one month vacation.

So, with all that out of the way, let's welcome you to the Tax Day issue, our April 15th effort. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day (If I say that enough times, I may start to believe it). Wrestling Forum is \$1.25 per copy and you may subscribe in any amount up to six months maximum (\$15.00).

I'd like to address one issue that we don't cover a lot, and that's reader contributions. Wrestling Forum has been build to the size it is on reader contributions. The main purpose of this bulletin or any other is simply an outlet for information. Sort of a clearing house if you will. This includes results, features, letters, inside information, and moral support. Without regular correspondence, this bulletin would cease to exist. Many of our sources don't want their names used in any way, shape or form, except on the mailing label. That's fine. Others want credit and we pay credit where credit is due every time we can. I'd just like to thank each and every one of you who is some way help to put this bulletin together. I know I'm hard to contact by phone most of the time, so I do want you to know that your efforts are appreciated. If you'd like to contribute anything at all to Forum, just send it along to the return address above your mailing label. Everything EXCEPT barometer votes and tournament votes should come here to the Knoxville address.

This issue may again be a little late as the saga of the Gallagher family is starting to rival that of the Von Erich clan. This past Saturday, my daughter Kelly had to go to the hospital with a 106 degree fever. Not a whole lot got done over the weekend on the newsletter due to this as the nurses had a problem with me bringing a typewriter in to the hospital. I'm writing this right before work on Monday and as of right now, the doctor is thinking that Kelly may be in there another three to five days. This is one time I won't apologize for the bulletin being late (if it is) as I've always said my family comes first. Fair enough?

Before we get on to the news of the past couple of weeks, let me take care of a little unfinished business first. Thanks to those of you who responded with an offer of the movie "the Wrestler". I have now secured a copy of it thanks to Charles Hodgekisson of Toronto.

That's all for this page...out of time and space. Let's get on to what's been going on and bring you current 9or at least semi-current) with the wrestling scene.....

the 1988 WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

first round - bracket A

by Sean Grande

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Here is the third annual installment of our tournament where you choose the winners. A bit of an explanation first. The top 32 wrestlers were seeded and their seed is in parenthesis by their name. Anyone who is injured or retires in real life while they wrestle in our imaginary ring will lose by forfeit regardless of the result of voting. Results will be posted in every other issue of the Forum with the next round pairings. Votes should go to SEAN GRANDE and not to Jon or Jeff. Here are the first round match ups. Feature matches list 1987 record in the tourney plus career records (wins, losses, ties, winning votes, losing votes, tie votes). Heels in each match are listed in CAPITAL LETTERS.

MAIN EVENT

TED DIBIASE (1)	vs	Tom Pritchard
7-0-0, 145-28-3	:1987:	0-0-0, 0-0-0
7-0-1, 157-40-6	:career:	0-0-0, 0-0-0

OTHER FEATURE MATCHES

DON MURACO	vs	Marty Janetty
0-1-0, 4-14-4	:1987:	0-0-1, 7-5-9
0-1-0, 4-14-4	:career:	0-0-1, 7-5-9
STAN HANSEN	vs	HONKY TONK MAN
3-1-0, 71-24-4	:1987:	1-1-0, 17-26-3
7-2-0, 163-70-10	:career:	1-1-0, 17-26-3
YCSHIKI FUJIWARA	vs	Chris Adams
0-0-0, 0-0-0	:1987:	0-0-0, 0-0-0
0-1-0, 2-19-6	:career:	1-1-0, 18-33-4
BILL DUNDEE	vs	Shawn Michaels
0-1-0, 5-15-0	:1987:	0-0-1, 5-7-9
0-1-0, 5-15-0	:career:	0-0-1, 5-7-9

plus these added attractions:

Al Perez vs LARRY ZBYSZKO	Owen Hart (8) vs PAUL DIAMOND
DICK MURDOCH (32) vs Dick Slater	BRUISER BRODY (5) vs Stan Lane
TULLY BLANCHARD (17) vs Matt Borne	Butch Reed vs ONE MAN GANG
DINO BRAVO vs Kuniaki Kobayashi	IVAN KOLOFF vs Jumbo Tsuruta
MIKE ROTUNDO vs Wendell Cooley	Pat Tanaka (28) vs ISLANDER HAKU
MASSA SAITO (16) vs Ultimate Warrior	Hulk Hogan (21) vs MASAHARU FUNAKI
NOBORIKO TAKADA (9) vs Bobby Fulton	Bret Hart (12) vs BARRY ORTON
KEVIN KELLY Vs Tama (Islanders)	AKIRA MAEDA vs El Hijo del Santo
ADRIAN ADONIS vs Greg Valentine	Kevin Von Erich vs Tom Zenk
ARN ANDERSON (24) vs Super Strong Machine	
Kazuo Yamazaki vs Shiro Koshinaka	Tiger Mask (20) vs CHRIS BENOIT
Tito Santana vs Sam Houston	TERRY TAYLOR (29) vs Brady Boone
DENNIS CONDREY vs Nord the Barbarian	BUBBA ROGERS vs BUZZ SAWYER
HIRO SAITO vs Jim Duggan	Barry Windham (4) BRUCE HART

TOURNEYFACTS: Well, the defending champion, Ted DiBiase takes center court as he attempts to defend his 1987 WFT championship. Looking at this year's draw, DiBiase will most likely have to defeat the likes of Dick Murdoch, Tully Blanchard, Owen Hart and Barry Windham if he is to return to the finals. Remember, Ted is the only undefeated wrestler (4 matches or more) in tournament history. Tom Pritchard, DiBiase's first round opponent will make his first WFT appearance having been the 128th and final wrestler to qualify for this year's event. Other debuting this month, Bruce Hart, Bubba Rogers, Brady Boone, Chris Benoit, El Hijo del Santo, Tom Zenk, Barry O, Islander Haku, Masaharu Funaki, Paul Diamond, Nord, Dennis Condrey, Kazuo Yamazaki, Super Strong Machine, Kevin Kelly, Bobby Fulton, Mike Rotundo, Dick Murdoch, and Al Perez. The other 64 wrestlers will get underway next month so until then it's up to you to send your list of winners to SEAN GRANDE, 700 COMMONWEALTH AVE, BOX 0710-C, Boston, MA 02215. DEADLINE IS MAY 7.

As the tournament progresses and there are fewer and fewer matches taking place, we will be getting our first annual old timers tournament underway as well as looking back at some of the statistical leaders in WFT history.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

At first glance, it would appear that Verne Gagne has finally gone over the edge and completely lost his mind. The rationnel behind the latest move by Verne does have merit, however, it's clearly the last attempts of a desperate man to survive.

The syndicated show is showing pre-1984 matches that involve wrestlers who are now predominantly with the WWF. They started a couple of weeks ago by showing a match from Denver featuring Jesse Ventura, Adrian Adonis, and Jerry Blackwell against Greg Gagne, Jim Brunzell and (get this) Hulk Hogan. And would you believe Mean Gene Okerland handled the commentary?

Next week, scheduled is a San Francisco match with Tito Santana going for Nick Bockwinkel's AWA title. Of course, both are with the WWF now.

Gagne has never been one to be shy about showing clips of wrestlers who had defected doing jobs foe current AWA wrestlers. This practice let him show his limited AWA audience that his wrestlers were "superior" and that they hadn't lost anything by losing the departing wrestler. This hasn't been done recently, mainly because 1) none of the current AWA wrestlers have clear cut wins over anyone and 2) Verne doesn't know from one week to the next who he's got under agreement to wrestle for him.

The new practice of showing just any wrestlers, though, serves no apparent point; the matches he's showing tend not to discredit wrestlers in the WWF rather it helps the push they're getting there. Why? Here's Vernes' reasoning:

Arena shows for the AWA are practically non-existent save a few highschool gyms in towns the size of Knoxville. The gates from these shows aren't providing anybody with a living, including Verne and Greg, so the primary source of income is derived from the syndicated show and the ESPN contract. That means viewers become vital in order to sustain these contracts. Showing Titan-established stars will bring in or keep viewers. For Verne to finally give in to this idea is the closest thing to a death rattle that we've heard from this group yet.

Adding to this is the fact that the syndicator of the AWA show is the same one that handles POW! (or GLOW... who knows, who cares) and Pro Wrestling this Week. This syndication company is rumored to be folding (part of the reason for PWTW being cancelled). Verne managed to lose most of his TV stations over the past four years (80% of them to Titan in 1984) on his own, so the loss of the syndication company could be the final nail in the coffin.

Other than that, there's just not a whole lot going on here. I believe that the recent reduction of live shows drops the AWA further out of the top 3 spots promotion-wise. If it weren't for Memphis continuing to recognize the AWA titles, I would guess that even the Apter mags would drop them in their ratings.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Editor's note: This issue's WAPT comes from Bill Hanrahan of Silver Spring, MD. He didn't object in the least to us using his name. The following is his accounts of wrestlers he has had the opportunity to meet and talk with.

RIC FLAIR - a truly classy professional. Very gracious and genuinely seemed to appreciate how much I respected his work and interview skills. He also entertained the crowd (at the bar he was at after the Baltimore Crockett Cup) by getting people to chant ID-IOT at Bobby Eaton. He and Animal also did some verbal bantering. Flair really acted the part of champion but was extremely sincere in our conversation. He talked to me for a pretty long time.

LEX LUGER - also very sincere and quite surprisingly, soft spoken. Seemed almost shy, but answered everything I asked very straightforwardly. Seemed like a real nice guy.

DAVID CROCKETT - as big of a jerk as his on air personality shows. I tried to talk to him about issues regarding no shows, false advertisements and other fan issues as well as a letter I had written to Crockett regarding a delayed show in Washington DC which had resulted in a near riot. Not only did he act like he didn't care, he was rude as well. One fan asked him if he could dance with his wife and when Crockett said no, the fan said, "a real man wouldn't be threatened". It was pretty funny.

Animal was in a real jovial mood and came up next to me at the bar when I was talking to Flair. He is so big that he is intimidating even though he was being friendly. I was at a loss for what to say to him. Bill Dundee stayed in character doing American insults even when I talked to him one on one. Teijo Khan was following Dundee around like a puppy dog.

JJ Dillon was very aloof and seemed like he didn't want to be bothered so I didn't press the issue. He wasn't nasty, but his eyes clearly said, "Stay away". Tully was hanging out with him so I didn't get to talk to him. Arn was at a table holding court with some adoring fans. A broad smile on his face, but I didn't get to speak with him either. Overall, the guys were very accessible to the fans and seemed to be having a great time with each other.

I met bob Backlund several years ago when he was doing an autograph session at the Baltimore arena prior to a card. He was exactly like his stage persona. He refused to sign an autograph on this guy's cigarette pack saying he didn't believe in smoking (he said it politely). He even joked with me and my friend, putting us in headlocks for photos.

EDITOR AGAIN: Bill continues with several stories about WWF wrestlers which we will print next time just due to space limitations this time. meanwhile, if you have something you'd like to contribute to this column, you are more than welcome. Bill said it was okay to use his name, but he's the only one who has okayed that in recent memory. I will not print anonymous columns, but if you want your name withheld (or a fake one used), just let me know. Every once in a while a wrestler will call and want to know who wrote the column, but they don't even get to know. The information remains private between you and me. Send along anything you have and we'll use them when we get time.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

The Crockett Camp continues to bask in its glory of its apparent win on Super Sunday, but I hope that they don't rest on their laurels and screw up the next few months...these next few months are going to be the most important ones Crockett has ever had.

The first thing and foremost when it comes to any of their TV shows is the Crockett Cup. You can't turn on one of their TV shows without just about every other word mentioning something to do with the tournament. We'll get to the latest developments here in a second, but first, let's take just a quick look at the numbers generated by the Clash of Champions.

There are several sets of ratings that go with the TBS show. They did a rating about every 15 minutes (which I understand is standard practice) to chart the interest of the show. Overall, it gained a 5.8 rating which translates down to about two and a half million homes, give or take a few thousand. This is interesting: The audience of the show increased at every interval and peaked during the Flair-Sting match at 7.1 (or about 3½ million homes). Usually during a sporting event, the audience is at its peak during the first half hour and then it will decrease as the viewers lose interest. The only explanation of this that makes any sense (why it went up and not down) was the way the show was set up to begin with, i. e. preliminary matches first and then building up to the Flair-Sting confrontation. Figuring on those numbers, Crockett had an average of his show going into 2.5 million homes while Titan went into .6 million (not including closed circuit audiences). My question is this: How many of those 2½ million people also bought Titan's pay per view? We may never know.

One other thing before getting into the Cup...a caller this past week brought up an interesting point about the battle between Elizabeth and Precious. I hadn't even noticed it to tell you the truth until he mentioned it, but both promotions are selling the idea of the lady standing by her man. Where Liz had to run off and get Mr. Hogan to help out her guy, Precious took things into her own hands and came into the ring a la Jim Duggan with a 2 x 4 and took matters into her own hands. I'm sure Crockett was sending a message there (especially since the Hogan save was more than evident in its coming). You don't suppose that Dusty and Jim are using the newsletters to help them, do you?

There will be several changes in the Crockett Cup as we get closer and closer to the dates. Teams will continue to be announced every week until the weekend of the show I would imagine. The first big change is the pull out of Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff as a team. Don't fret though, both will be there.

The reason for the pull out is due to Dusty's suspension. The board of directors of the NWA met and decided to suspend Dusty for his actions pertaining to the baseball bat incident with Tully Blanchard and Jim Crockett. The vote was "not unanimous" however and both Paul Boesch and Jim Crockett expressed their displeasure at the result. The bottom line is, we won't have to look at Dusty's face for the next 120 days beginning on 4/16. We will have to put up with the Midnight Rider though, but at least he'll be wearing a mask.

I'll admit, I fell for the routine they did on TBS. At the beginning of the 4/9 show, they announced that there was a newcomer to the NWA, and I started trying to figure out who they raided and who they got. Turns out it was a set up for the Midnight Rider to return. They had Magnum sitting by a campfire, pouring his heart out because his best friend had just been suspended. Up rides the Rider and it reminded me of the old Superman series where a little kid is sitting, crying about some misfortune and Superman flies down and stands behind him, listening. Oh, sure it was pretty hokey, but it had to be that way

in order for J. J. Dillon to be able to throw his tantrum about the Midnight Rider really being Dusty. The non unanimous decision to suspend Dusty will result in the board members who voted no to be able to smile and tell JJ to PROVE that it's really Dusty under the mask (along with threatening lifetime suspensions if it's ever proven that it really is Dusty). Shoot, this whole thing might even see one of the NWA board of directors turning heel. They did that angle in Roller Games several times so why not wrestling?

I don't quite know what the story on Baby Doll is, but it's my understanding that she is history. Larry Zbyszko came out this past week with Al Perez and it was announced that they will team at the Crockett Cup. Gary Hart was with them and no mention was even made of Baby Doll, let alone her pictures of Dusty.

The big change at the Crockett cup will be the situation with Dusty and Nikita. The Midnight Rider will not be teaming with Nikita (that would be too obvious) but instead, Nikita will get his chance at Ric Flair. I'm not sure what Dusty will be doing, but rest assured a fat masked man will be a big part of the proceedings.

Also in a singles match will be Kevin Sullivan against Jim Garvin in a "prince of Darkness" match. I've been told that this is where both wrestlers will be blindfolded (will they provide blindfolds for the audience as well?). Does this reek of a sure referee bump or is it just my imagination?

With baseball season upon us, there are a few changes in programming for TBS. The Main Event show (which is very good) that is usually shown on Sunday nights is going to make a few appearances on the Saturday morning time slot whenever there is a Braves game pre-empting the Sunday spot. It won't be as bad as what ESPN does with the AWA show but it will still be a good idea to check your TV Guide before setting your VCR.

Just got a call on tonight's Boston Garden show (4/15) from John McAdam. The complete results can be found in the results section, but there is definitely one thing worth mentioning. During the Midnight Express-Fantastics match, Bobby Fulton got sick to his stomach and lost his supper on the arena floor. Still, he

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continued to work the rest of the match. Talk about dedication!

Brad Armstrong is out with a knee injury (or I should say, was out) but he is scheduled to be back by the time you read this. Still, the Lightning Express no-showed Boston last night so who knows.

With the Crockett Cup less than a week away, there are very few teams announced. This weekend's show is being pre-empted by baseball is going to hurt the hype machine and also will keep us from giving you the complete line up for the show. The only teams I can come up with at this point are: Tully/Arn, Roadies, Koloff/Murdoch, Barbie/Warlord, Sting/Ron Garvin, Shane Douglas/Ricky Santana, Barry/Lex, the Fantastics, the Midnight Express, Varsity Club, Jive Tones, Z/Perez, Doc/Simmons, Lightning Express, the Shepherders and a host of jobber teams like Kendall Windham and the Italian Stallion. The first night in Greenville, SC will feature most of the jobber teams being eliminated with very little surprises. I think that what we'll be seeing Dusty doing (not sure which night) is having a bullrope match, probably with JJ Dillon. The second night could be pretty good and I would guess that we'll be seeing a Midnight Express-Fantastics confrontation which could turn out to be a candidate for match of the year. I won't even try to speculate a winner of the whole thing and there has been no inside info passed along (usually on big events like this I'd rather speculate anyway and be mildly surprised at the results). Most of the callers here though are quite anxious to call the winner and it right now is running about 50-50 on either the Fantastics or the Road Warriors.

Look for a turn in the next few weeks and most likely a the Cup when Johnny Ace hits one of the Shepherders once too often with the flagpole. They've been running this one across the country lately with the Sheeps losing as a result. As soon as there's TV cameras present to capture the moment, we'll probably see the turn.

Despite not being on TV, Jimmy Valiant and Bugsy McGraw are still around. McGraw is wrestling at house shows as a heel under a mask against Valiant. Kinda makes you shudder, doesn't it?

P E N C I L P O I N T S

BROTHER EARNEST

Regarding your views on Brother Earnest's comments...lighten up, brother. If Jesus didn't have a sense of humor, we wouldn't have pro wrestling, let alone TV evangelists.

-BILL HANRAHAN-
-Silver Spring, MD-

First and most of all, I'm NOT knocking anyone's beliefs. I just find it very hard to understand anyone getting offended by a parody more than they would over the actual people who set themselves up for such ridicule by virtue of their hypocrisy. Especially, "as a christian", aren't you deeply saddened by these holy-roller con artists who humiliate the people who pay for their mansions? How can any reasonable fan boycott a wrestling card in protest to something which is a proven and flagrant scam? These irate individuals should do something more effective with their gripes, like write to Swaggart's bosses and really vent their spleens. Oh yeah, God doesn't have a PO Box. On the same idea, I have some friends who happen to be gay, so you can imagine my disgust at the Adrian Adonis character, but that's what it's all about; outrage. I'm more worried about actual homophobia that bit helped to instill than keeping a few bucks out of a TV minister's pocket. I mean, Adrian never brainwashed any old ladies into eating dog food so that they could send him their social security money. I think those bastards deserve every swipe taken at them and more.

-JOE COUGHLIN-
-Boston, MA-

EDITOR: I haven't taken swipes at tv evangelists here because this is a wrestling newsletter. I can think of only two TV preachers who I can give any amount of credit to and those are Billy Graham and Robert Schueller. We hear them ask for money but not beg for it. Just this morning I saw the most ridiculous show yet. The guy promised that if you sent him \$1000, he'd make you successful. What a jerk! Anyway, my objection is not that Earnest is making fun of tv preachers. As I said last time, they are more or less a parody of themselves anyway. The thing that I object to is Earnest's blasphemous remarks at the live shows. I consider that cheap heat just the same as I consider one of the wrestlers swearing at the customers (not in the same league but both are examples of cheap heat). Let the guy continue making fun of the holy rollers; just keep him off God and Christ. One more thing... God may not have a PO Box, but he does have a hotline that's open 24 hours a day, and you don't even need a phone to get hold of him. Thanks to both of you for writing. I enjoyed the input.

RESTHOLDMANIA IV

You wouldn't suppose that the reason Vince held WMIV at Trump Plaza was because someone made him an offer he couldn't refuse, do you?

-NAME WITHHELD-

You once said about your high school basketball team that they went into a couple of games after receiving national publicity, a little overconfident. They proceeded to get beat. That's about what happened on Super Sunday. McMahon didn't really take Crockett as a serious threat (especially after Starrcade and the Stampede Finals) and as a result, he got his booty kicked. I did grade the matches a little higher than

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than you or your staff, though that's always the case as I'm not ever as critical as you. Just one question though...I wonder how good smart fans (including you and I) would have thought Wrestlemania was if Crockett's show had not been so good. I watched the Crockett show first and WMIV second. If I had reversed that viewing, WMIV might have been a lot better as I would have had nothing to compare it with.

-ERIC HOYME-
-Indianapolis, IN-

I think that everyone is praising Jim Crockett was too much for "Clash of Champions". Granted it was a good performance, but I didn't think it was that good. It was better than Wrestlemania only because the bookers in the WWF don't know what the hell they are doing. They ruined what could have been a fantastic show. I have here, the perfect ending for WMIV that really would have had the fans still buzzing. How about this ending:

During the final match, as Savage was climbing to the top turn buckle, Donald Trump, who was sitting at ringside, should have jumped over the ring barriers, run over to where Savage was about to jump from and hook his leg. Savage would have hurt himself and DiBiase could have taken advantage of him for the three count. Then as the belt was being presented to DiBiase, Trump is standing next to Ted and says to the people of New Jersey and the world, "That's right, even I, Donald Trump, had my price for the million dollar man!" They all walk out of the arena with the fans still in a state of shock. How about that for the ultimate ending! ...and then, just signed minutes ago, WWF's Donald Trump vs NWA's Ted Turner. Regardless of who wins, Virgil Runnels still gets the electric chair.

-DAN SCHNITZER-
-TONY FELLER-
-Baltimore, MD-

EDITOR: Although Trump would never have allowed his involvement to go that far, I think the angle would have been good. But what if Vince McMahon himself would have stepped into Trump's role?

I didn't see WMIV as my cable company never heard of Pay per view! If both shows had been on PPV, I would have watched Clash of Champions. I'm pretty fed up with the WWF right now. I thought Clash of Champions was great! All the matches except the barbed wire match really held my attention! I really don't enjoy the Roadies anymore; most of the time their matches are too short and predictable. Flair/Sting is my choice for at the moment for match of the year. They both worked hard and took some great bumps. I thought the judging was dumb though I knew it would end up like it did.

I think you should put an open letter to Andre in the Forum telling him to retire. He looks terrible, almost white as a sheet or even grey sometimes. His body is a walking disaster and he can't even do any moves anymore. He should retire before he dies, because I wouldn't discount that as a possibility if he continues to wrestle.

-LINDA SILFEN-
-Boca Raton, FL-

One good thing about how bad WMIV was...it gives us something to look forward to next year. How could anything be as bad as this one?

-NAMEWITHHELD-
-Joliet, IL-

MEMPHIS

Eddie Gilbert has taken off, but not quite in the same way we speculated late issue. As you will recall, we thought that if he left, the Jarrett group might not welcome him back. But not only has the door been left open for him to return, there are the rumors that Memphis will be working with the group for which he has departed.

How the departure came about is like this...Lance Russell had completed his weekly phone call to Jerry Lawler and was going into an interview with Eddie. Lance began by chastising him about all the people he had burned. Eddie agreed but said that there was still one person he had not burned yet and that was Lance Russell himself. As Eddie reached in to his pocket, Lance casually asked him where he thought Lawler had called from. Eddie assumed Jerry had phoned from his apartment, but Lance told him that Jerry had called from the lobby of that very TV studio. Jerry walks out, clad all in black, unshaven and with gloves and looked pretty scruffy. The brawl that ensued was a Memphis classic, spilling outside into the parking lot and even featuring Gilbert slamming Jerry into the windshield of a car (they must have seen John Nord's TV commercials).

Eddie has now departed as the result of a Mid South Coliseum show. He is headed to work as the booker for Continental (the one based out of Birmingham, not the USA promotion as we had though last time) and they have left the door open for his return. I guess what we'll be seeing is Eddie sending in a new bounty hunter weekly to go after Jerry.

Also in the family feud, Eddie Marlin is having a series of Cowboy Boot matches as a result of another incident on Memphis TV. Marlin and Doug Gilbert were arguing about the throwing of fire when Tommy Gilbert sneak attacked Marlin. A cowboy boot match is nothing more than it being legal to wear cowboy boots into the ring. They showed one match between the two on Financial News Network and for a guy his age, Eddie Marlin still takes a pretty decent bump. He's at least better than 70% of the Titan wrestlers who don't even try anymore.

The Bruise Brothers beat Max Paine and Gary Young for the Southern Tag Team championship in a match where the Brothers put up a gold record by Sawyer Brown against the straps. This frees up Paine to defend his CWA title more often. Young will begin teaming with Doug Gilbert in a feud with Billy Travis and Jeff Jarrett as well. It would appear that the next challengers for the Southern tag belts will now be a team called the Cuban Assassins. One of the Assassins is the same one who worked the central states area and we're not sure about the other guy.

Another new face in the area is Tom Brandi who is billed as being from the male stripper-dance troupe Chipndales. He had been wrestling for some of the east coast independents and there's no doubt he should have stayed. He's green, but even that doesn't excuse how bad he is. In a squash against Ruff (of the masked jobber team of Ruff n Ready) the finish was supposed to be Ruff swinging and missing, Tom ducking, going behind, and doing a roll up off the ropes. Brandi missed the move so bad that if Jerry Calhoun had counted the fall, he'd have looked stupid. They got up and did the same exact finish all over again. The got it close to right that time. He will feud with Brickhouse Brown it would appear.

Scott Steiner (Rick's brother) is in too. He on the other hand, doesn't look half bad. He'll also be in the babyface role. They are not mentioning that he is Rick's brother, but then again, most of the fans here probably wouldn't know who Rick Steiner is anyway, at least, not without a complicated explanation.

THE EGO THAT ATE WRESTLING

Over the past five decades, professional wrestling has survived a seemingly endless movement to destroy it. Back before most of us were born, the sport managed to shrug off anti-trust allegations; the fifties brought over-exposure on television; the sixties and seventies were deluged with cries of fakery; the eighties, now almost over, have fended off near drug scandals, promotional wars and Vince McMahon Jr. As we head into the 1990's, wrestling will face yet another challenge, one that could completely change the sport as we know it.

Egos in wrestling have gotten out of hand and they continue to play an important role in the sport with no signs that they will become any less so. Witness some of the events of the past year.

****FEBRUARY 1988**-Hulk Hogan drops his WWF title after holding it for just over four years. Even so, Hogan is not pinned; in fact Hogan has not done a clean job in several years.

****SUMMER-FALL 1987**-Despite being grossly overweight and out of shape, Dusty Rhodes continues to push himself on a national basis at the expense of Jim Crockett Promotions. With legitimate athletes in the NWA, such as Steve Williams who might have gone over nationally, Dusty remains deaf to the voice of fans and as booker, continued to keep the spotlight on himself.

****NOVEMBER 1987**-The Road Warriors are again denied the NWA tagteam belts at Starrcade. The consensus of those in the know is that the Warriors, being unwilling to do jobs, would never give up the title.

****AUGUST 1987**-Kevin Von Erich is scheduled to drop his WCCW belt to Al Perez. He doesn't even bother to show up at the arena, forcing the promotion to come up with a quick explanation and a reason for a title change.

****FEBRUARY 1988**-A local west coast independent is called in to work an NWA show. He walks out after learning he would have to do a job for one of Crockett's regulars.

This last example is perhaps the most indicative of what the future holds. In this particular case, a local wrestler refused to do a job for even an established star. His reasoning was such that he had paid his dues; he wasn't laying down for anyone. It's bad enough when established stars won't take a pin; this situation borders on the ridiculous.

In further illustrating our point, let's look at Wrestlemania IV. Out of 15 matches, only four ended with clean pins (Savage over Reed, Warrior over Hercules, DiBiase over Muraco, and Savage over Valentine). Five matches had a pin which was either preceded by outside interference or in which trunks were used. The remaining six matches ended in some sort of a disqualification, count out or draw.

The whole philosophy behind a wrestlers' reluctance to do a job can be traced to one reason: national exposure on cable TV. Once a wrestler is pinned in front of millions of TV wrestling fans, it is thought that he loses his creditability and ability to draw. This may be true in a lot of cases, however, it must be remembered that absolutely no one or nothing is invulnerable. In more than 20 superbowl's, only once has the winning team been undefeated. An occasional pin can be used for shock value and if done correctly.

Several years ago the AWA had their number one heel, Kobayashi in a TV squash match against an unknown who was announced as Bobby Van. Van turned out to be Billy Robinson and the squash match turned out to be anything but. Robinson pinned Kobayashi and immediately established his status as number one babyface. After the win, Kobayashi and his manager beat up Robinson, but the job had been done. This angle didn't decrease attendance. Instead it bolstered a

sagging gate. Done correctly, jobs can be used as an advantage.

But today, submissions and jobs are a thing of the past. Even at house shows with no TV cameras present, they are a rarity.

So where will this all lead? The picture is a dim one unless promoters force wrestlers to cooperate. Imagine several years down the road going to a live show with seven matches. All seven end in some sort of DQ or countout. There wouldn't be a whole lot of satisfaction from the audience point of view, and after all, that is the whole reason for buying tickets in the first place.

Bookers and their friends getting a push is another matter as well. It's nice to be able to give one's friends employment, but in the business world, employing your friends at the expense of making money is suicidal. Again, ego plays a big role here as I doubt that we'll ever see a wrestler go to his booker and say, "Gee, Boss, I just don't think I'm getting over. Why don't you put me in the preliminary matches and push somebody else?". Instead, the wrestler finds fault with the way he's being pushed and demands a bigger push. The end result is often a wrestler who winds up totally unmarketable.

Bookers who push themselves are not removed enough from the wrestling scene to look at their angles objectively. Dusty Rhodes is a prime example of this. Jerry Lawler is sometimes guilty of this as well, though in his defense, he does know when to abort an angle when it just isn't getting over. Verne Gagne was guilty of this charge even in his active days as a wrestler. This situation not only causes contempt among the smart fans, but among the marks as well. Hardly any of the unknowledgeable fans will put up with a complete goody two shoes character which is what bookers many times will make themselves out to be in an attempt to get themselves over.

Wrestling cannot survive without its egos. It may find it hard to survive with. There is nothing wrong with the constant hype of the promotion or of a genuine box office draw. The problem lies with wrestlers who can't take criticism of either the owners or the writers. It also lies with those who consider themselves too good to do jobs.

The thing that is going to have to change is the latter. Promoters need to band together somewhat, even if they don't work together per se, and establish some guidelines. Contracts should be written in such a way that if a wrestler refused to do a job, the contract was broken. No one should be immune from taking a pin. That isn't to say that a wrestler who formerly was a superman has to lose once a month, but an occasional loss would allow the booking job to be much simpler. The best example of this would be the Road Warriors winning the NWA titles. It would save Dusty from having to come up with an excuse every time the title changes to a babyface team as to why the Warriors aren't going after the titles.

Stretcher jobs are becoming more and more prevalent in the sport today. For some reason, a wrestler won't refuse to do a stretcher job, yet allowing himself to be pinned is out of the question. No one has been able to explain to me yet why three seconds on one's back is more humiliating than being completely destroyed and spend at least ten minutes being carted away on a gurney. Yet in the past two months, we have seen as many stretcher jobs (Warriors and Kerry Von Erich). the giant egos of today will have to change in some form for wrestling to survive into a new century. I feel that the lost art of laying on your back for three seconds is going to have to make a comeback for it to happen.

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I was reminded the other night of the time Bruiser Brody walked out on the AWA, which prompted one of the all time great mud slinging campaigns this side of a mayoral race in Chicago.

Well, the good folks at the GWA were obviously a bit peeved when Gordon Solie walked out and left for the promotion that Mike Graham and Steve Keirn are putting together in Tampa. During a segment on the TV show this week, booker Bob Roop and lead heel Red Roberts talked about the "fall" of Gordon Solie. Roberts mentioned Gordon had been made out to be a big star when in fact he was just "a simple Man". He also spoke of Gordon getting "fired" from Pro Wrestling This Week and said that Gordon hated kids. Roop tried to maintain the babyface role, but mentioned Gordon getting fired in Atlanta and by Crockett after the buyout. He claimed the reason Gordon left was because "he had lost it" and he couldn't "Handle the pressure" of his job anymore. I was surprised they also didn't mention Gordon's chain smoking and the fact that his favorite drink is said to be scotch and soda, hold the soda. Then both guys gave Gordon a "thumbs down" as a picture of Goprdn appeared on the screen with the caption, "Gordon Solie: 1987/1988" beneath it (like he had died).

The other angles at the recent tapings (4/2/88) included a continuation of the Red Roberts-Col. Kirschner feud. A cute skit saw Kirshcner bring out G I Joe Polardi in a giant chicken suit to harass Roberts and his tag team Death Row (by the way, Robert is also getting help in "controlling" his tag team by some guy who is either supposed to be the prison warden or their minister, I'm not sure which). After being chased around by the Chicken, Roberts did an interview where he told Death Row to beat up "anybody in a chicken suit". Well, right after that the chicken comes out, Roberts gives chase and Kirschner hides under the ring until he nails Roberts with a chair. The chicken head gets put on Roberts, Kirschner and polardi leave the area, Death Row arrives and proceed to annihilate Roberts. Pretty good stuff.

The other angle was a little confusing. The GWA tag champs are Rusty Brooks and Jumbo Baretta who are currently managed by Boris Malenko after Rusty fires Ox Baker. During the first hour of tapings, Ox comes to the ring and claims to still own Jumbo's contract. somehow the way Ox and malenko decided to resolve it was for Rusty to choose a partner, be managed by Malenko, and Jumo pick a partner and be managed by Ox with the winners to be new GWA tag champs.(??huh??). Anyway, Rusty picked Tom Nash (said to be the best student at Malenko's school) and Jumbo picks jobber Matt Otto. Rusty and Nash spent the whole match destroying Otto. Every time jumbo would try to come in Rusty would yell and browbeat him (the set Jumbo up before as a big dumb kid who doesn't understand why the fans yell at him and listens to everything Rusty says) and then Jumbo would look like he was going to cry and get out of the ring again. Finally after a leap onto the floor that would have made his hero Owen Hart proud, Nash pinned Otto. So, Rusty and Nash are new GWA tag champs, right? WRONG! They give the belt to Rusty and jumbo and say that Malenko is their new manager! Gee that makes sense, didn't it? As for Nash he later did a run in to help Rusty and Baretta in a match with the Soul Patrol. So maybe some six man tags are in the future. Or Baker is now babyface manager for the soul Patrol. EC:AD!

NOTES: They apparently have finally resolved the "is Steve Collins a heel or a babyface"? The first hour had Collins appear with his party girls, one white one black. The black girl was billed as Dominique and it looks as though she will play a part in Steve's turn...Joe and Dean malenko, fresh off a tour of Japan, were supposed to be at the

Malenko does something during interview that cracks me up. He refuses to call the announcer by his name. He calls him "Mr. TV Announcer". New host for GWA are Bob Roop and Frank Abbondalo...until next time...

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

I'm one that usually doesn't believe most of the rhetoric put out by the WWF, so you can take these figures with a grain of salt like I did, but here are some figures on what Wrestlemania IV did... I've been told they had a 6% buy rate across the country. That translates in to about 590,000 homes. They had planned on getting a 7% buy rate so I figure that the combination of Crockett's show on TBS and the abstract idea of a tournament cost them about 1%. That might not sound like a whole lot, but one percent figures out to 98,000 homes. Take that number times a price tag of about \$20 (the average cost of the show on Pay Per View) and that's nearly two million bucks. Add that to the number of people who stayed home instead of going to a closed circuit location (a figure we really can't guess at) and you can see that someone or something cost Mr. McMahon a chunk of change. They are really pushing the video tape this year also so that may be some indication of them not making the kind of money they wanted.

I'm not saying Wrestlemania wasn't a success. It was. My best guess is that after Vince pays off all the people involved from wrestlers to satellite time to closed circuit locations, he's going to have about six million or so for pocket money. But when you expect to make in the neighborhood of nine million profit, it is a disappointment (but only for a while).

The video will be available on May 11, and I wonder why they are taking so long with it. They are going to have to sweeten the crowd noise a bit, but I would have thought that they would have tried to have it out with in three weeks at the latest. The black market is already full of tapes of it and with a price tag of \$39.95, about the only people interested in buying it will be video stores. One other thing...I hope they cut the intermission because after going back and listening to the first minute or so of it, you can hear that they forgot to cut the mikes at ringside. You can hear people saying, "Hey! This card sucks!" and other such stuff that they shouldn't have let get on the air.

I don't know whether or not the new interview spots will be permanent after they return from their hiatus or not. What they are doing right now is taking us to "Event Center" where Mean Gene sits behind a desk talking about upcoming shows and dropping names in the city they're going to. After announcing a few of the matches signed, they go to the interview that is basically a generic one (the wrestlers never mention the name of the town they're going to, just "this city"). This of course will save them a bunch of time if they continue as before what they would do is have everyone come in on the morning of the TV taping and sit around while they did one wrestler's interviews for the next three weeks (Okay, Bigelow's up next. You're going to Chicago, Des Moines, Los Angeles, Dallas, Podunk, and Flytrap) and then they'd do however many different interviews with that wrestler. Everyone complained because even as big and organized as the WWF is, they didn't have a schedule to go by and the thing dragged on for hours with no one able to leave. Now, Gene gets to sit around doing the local spots and the wrestlers just have to do one interview and make it a generic one. Mentioning the name of the town they're going to will help sell tickets, especially in smaller markets like Peoria, but maybe not enough that they can bother tying up their wrestlers for something like that. We'll see how it goes after they come back.

Did you notice they never made even the slightest bit of reference to the Hebner-twins referee skit during Wrestlemania? Earl and Dave both refereed matches during the thing too including the championship match between Savage and DiBiase. They went to all the trouble of getting it over on TV, going as far as saying that Dave had been fingerprinted

and all. I'll bet that this angle does well in our year end poll, yet Vince seems to be blaming the lack of WMIV on it so it has conveniently been forgotten. Oh well.

And by the way, the next time I hear these buffoons say something about us bulletins exposing the business, I think I'll shove a VHS tape down McMahon's throat. The next three weeks of shows are going to expose the business to about 40,000 fans in various cities while we only do it to somewhere around 200 each issue. The reason is that they filmed post Wrestlemania angles before the big show and then showed them after. People in Winston-Salem are going to be scratching their heads wondering how Hacksaw Jim Duggan knew that Andre was going to interfere in WM and cost him his match with DiBiase. Yet the way it came out on TV, the whole reason he challenged Andre and attacked him with the 2 x 4 is because he tripped him in the DiBiase match. People in Cape Girardo, MO and Springfield, IL are going to wonder how come Jimmy Hart was running around with that silly little hat when he hadn't had his hair cut yet. This is to say nothing about how Vince sent out publicity releases prior to the 2/5 card when Hogan lost his title saying how Hogan would be in Wrestlemania trying to regain his title. Go ahead and point your stubby little finger McMahon, but just remember...there's four fingers pointing right back at you.

Titan returns to Chicago on the 15th with Savage vs DiBiase, OMG vs Bam Bam, Steamboat and Muraco vs the Islanders (for South Pacific bragging rites I guess), Koko vs Heenan and the killer Bees against the Rougeau Brothers. The Bees have been asked to turn heel so this tour with them facing the Rougeaus may be a showcase just to see how they will get over as heels before they do the actual TV turn. Jim Neidhart will also be working against George Steele and that one ought to pack the place (the bathrooms and concession stands I'm talking about here).

Bret Hart is doing babyface interviews, but Neidhart is still doing heel interviews and mentioning the Hart Foundation. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense not to turn them against one another, but then again this IS the WWF.

Quote of the week, month, etc has to go to Jesse (who else). Vince is talking about how he's always been a fan of Randy Savage and Jesse blurts out, "Wait a minute, McMahon! I don't want to get hit with a bolt of lightning sittin' here when you start lyin'!" Just to save some time from now on, they could save that tape and play it back about ten times a show.

On a related subject, David Sammartino missed his court appearance stemming from an incident where he went after and punched a fan in Watertown New York. He forfeits his \$100 bond he had put up so I guess they consider him guilty by his absence. The fan, Martin Gallagher, will not continue any charges and I have been told that the WWF made it well worth his while.

In case you want to mark your calendars, Titan has announced four pay per view specials for the next year. One will be in August, another on Thanksgiving (survivor Series II), one on the non football Sunday in January (between the playoffs and Superbowl) and Wrestlemania V, but I can't come up with a date for it off the top of my head.

I'm told that a deal has been worked out so that Big Bubba Rogers can start wrestling within a month or so. My source refused to give any details (which usually means that Titan came up on the short end again), but said "we reached a point of mutual satisfaction". These guys should really be in politics, you know it?

Oh where oh where have the Angels gone, or where oh where can they be? I haven't heard hide nor hair of the Jumping Bomb Angels since shortly before WMIV. Has anyone else? The women's tag team championship here is usually just an after thought anyway, so if they have taken I would expect a fictitious title change somewhere along the line.

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CALGARY STAMPEDE

It seems that most of the things going on in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada are things outside the ring and not in it. Here the new Boxing and wrestling commission are laying down some stringent rules concerning live shows. Edmonton Commissioner Rod Hayter was at the April 2nd show in Edmonton and he insisted that there be no blood and no brawling outside the ring. There have been incidents in the past where wrestlers have brawled in the crowd and ended up hitting fans. Hayter was reportedly not pleased with what he saw at the show and is considering action. This commission has not been shy in the past about handing out legit fines to wrestlers who disobey their rules. The whole problem is that the people laying down the rules don't understand the business and they don't take the time to learn. I hardly doubt that the Hart family has any reluctance to smarten him up, so it comes down to him just having pre conceived notions about the sport, all of which are negative.

Part of what Hayter didn't like was a Street fight that night which saw Owen Hart and Jason vs Johnny Smith and Makhan Singh. All four juiced, I think all by way of the blade. Anyway, the match saw all four in a wild brawl which included outside brawling (Smith used a 55 gallon drum on Jason in the middle of the crowd). You'd have thought they would have toned things down just a bit for his honor the commissioner.

Other than that, Gama Singh has left and is currently wrestling in Japan. Jason will be headed there as well for a tour next month. There may also be a couple of guys headed over this way to learn the ropes as well. Kinda like a foreign exchange student program I guess.

Big news is the 3/18 hearing (open to the public) of the Oregon state boxing and wrestling commission which was attended by Don Owen, Sandy Barr, Barry Owen, Rip Oliver, Matt Borne, Tony Borne, Mike Miller, Moondog Moretti, Art Crews and Coco Samoa. The main thrust of the proceedings were safety measures and the commission proposed placing mats around the ring, keeping the ring mats clean, increased security at arenas, more extensive drug testing (to now include pain killers) and aids testing. They were even looking into legit fines for using chairs (the new commissioners obviously have limited understanding of the business). The commission will not budge on it's stance against blading but said they had no problems with hardway blood (which one sounds more dangerous to you?).

On the 3/26 Portland show, the Grappler crashed an interview with Tony Borne and following a brief argument, started to leave and Borne went on with the interview. Grappler quickly reappeared and decked Tony from behind and then delivered a loaded kick to Borne's mid-section. Matt Borne then rushed up, whipped the hooded one with a belt and then choked him with it until Grappler foamed at the mouth (you could see him spit out the sodium capsule). Other heels ran up for the save and Borne lashed out at them with the belt as they hauled Grappler away. A cage match was then signed for 4/2.

Also on this night, Avalanche and Mike Golden lifted the Northwest tag titles from Steve Doll and Scott Peterson in two straight falls. They started the match with the old eagle where Peterson doesn't show up at the arena and Doll picked Billy 2 Eagles to take his place. Before the bell rang to start the match, Peterson staggers out looking like he had been in a war. Scott announced that his car broke down and Avalanche and Golden pulled up and beat the snot out of him but he would not let that keep him out of the match. The first fall was a good brawl which ended when Mike held Peterson stretched out over the top rope and Avalanche came off the second rope with a big splash, setting up the first fall pin by Golden.

The ref was "blind" shoving Steve out of the ring during the double-team. Doll came out alone for the second fall and did alright for awhile until he missed a dropkick on Golden. As Steve was being thrashed, Peterson vainly tried to re-enter the battle. As ref Sandy Barr and a security guard tried to help Scott, the heels double suplexed Steve and Avalanche splashed him for the title changing pinfall.

Buddy Rose was supposed to return to the promotion on the 4/2 card after finally making up with Don Owen but he did not show and wasn't mentioned on TV either. They did say that Tom Zenk was definitely coming in for two "Wrestling Fantasia" extravaganzas set for 5/7 in Portland and 5/8 in Seattle. Also announced for these cards were an AWA title defense by Curt Hennig and Skip Luthor the "Master Blaster", who has been working for the PWA group in Minnesota. Luthor debuts on 4/16 in Portland.

Here's what did happen on the 4/2 show: The over-the-top-rope DQ. rule was adopted effective this night (an obvious move to appease the commission) but was not used on the card. They also added the mats around the ring on this show. In the ring, Peterson challenged Avalanche to an impromptu match and they brawled for a few minutes when Golden and then Doll interfered and all four brawled until the faces drove the heels from the squared circle, with the new champs getting the worst end of the deal. A title rematch was signed for 4/9.

Art Barr, who wrestled with a bandaged hand (an "injury" they said he suffered when he was tossed over the top rope so they could have an excuse for the new rule change), was attacked by the Grappler as he was wrestling Golden and had the hand worked over until Coco Samoa made the save followed by Matt Borne and the Assassin. Samoa faces Grappler for the singles title on the 4/9 show.

Finally, with Billy Jack's wrestling school opening up (he charges \$500.00), this promotion is sponsoring one with Art Crews as instructor with a \$149.50 price tag.

WORLD CLASS

We've had the Worth-Las title change hands since last time. Actually it took place on the 25th, but we didn't find out about it until just after we sent last issue out. Iceman Parsons is the new champ (being billed somewhat as the first black world's champion) and the situation behind it all is very confusing.

In the match with Kerry against Iceman, Michael Hayes was in Kerry's corner and Black Bart was in Iceman's. Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts came to the ring and (accounts vary as to who signaled for this next) the lights in the arena went out. There was some shuffling about and when the lights came back on, Kerry was decked out in the middle of the ring with Iceman on top. Terry, Buddy and Bart all headed back to the dressing room and we found Michael also k.o'd. Kerry did a stretcher job from there.

Chris Adams can't seem to have any luck but bad luck. He had a hand injury recently and he had just come back from that when he decided to fill in on a central states card. He wrestled Mike George and George hit him flush with a dropkick. The kick was an accident (tell Chris that) and did some damage: broken nose, a couple of teeth knocked out, and some broken bones in his face. I guess it's needless to say, but he'll be out of action for a while.

John Tatum and Jack Victory have taken back the combined Wild West/Texas tag titles from Shawn and Steve Simpson on the last TV tapings. Their feud over the belts will no doubt continue.

Looks as if Skandor Akbar, the friend of bulletin editors everywhere, will head back in to manage Black Bart. Something is brewing with him and Bill Irwin as Bart wanted to team with Irwin, but Bill refused.

Terry Taylor must wonder about his luck as well. Every time they establish him in a feud with someone, something happens to cut it short. Witness his car accident last year, just when he was becoming one of the hottest heels in the biz and then the eventual departure of both himself and Chris Adams. It looked like they would pick things up from where they left off, but now Chris is out for a while. Terry continues to hold the Texas title.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER (well, a few places anyway)

EDITOR NOTES: Not only are we short on pages this time, but also short on results. We'll do what we can with what we got. The WWF layoff for the month hurt a bunch, but we've not been getting that many arena reports. Ideally, I'd like to have about 15-20 sets of results per issue, but I really need your help. When you send results try to include a brief description of what happened along with an estimated attendance. You may grade the matches if you wish, but that's not mandatory.

3-16 HARTFORD, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Steve Seiler...Bigelow over Bravo (C)...Rude beat Steamboat (B-)...Beefcake over Valentine by DQ (C)...OMG beat Muraco (C-)...Koko defeated Iron Mike (C-)...Bolshviks beat Bees (D+)...Young Stallions over Conquistadors (D+)...Rude won the Royal Rumble...NOTES: Attendance 2500...Bam Bam was limping badly and re injured his knee...only thing noteworthy in the Rumble was Valentine and Bravo going at it pretty good...Steamboat showed off kid and wife...Beefcake got biggest response of night...Butch Reed and Iron Sheik were no shows.

3-25 PITTSBURGH (IND) - courtesy of jeff Lynch...Johnny Rotton pinned Sy Youngblood...Johnny DeFazio over Sicilian ceast...Miss Cheryl beat Chrystal Gold...Hercules Gavin went DCOR with Goliath...American Patriots (TC Reynolds/Bill Fishinger) over Baron Mikel Donatelli/Libyan Terrorist...NOTES: Attendance 489...enjoyable show where antics and fun made up for lack of technical skills...show had lots of heat throughout...Goliath is same one that appeared in Memphis.

4-1. NORFOLK (NWA) - courtesy of Harvey Cobb...
Tim Horner defeated Tiger Conway Jr....Shaska
Whatley beat Mark Flemming...Steve Williams
beat Rick Steiner...Midnight Express over
the Fantastics...Dusty Rhodes beat Mike Ro-
tundo...Arn and Tully over Barry and Lex...
Ric Flair defeated Sting...NOTES: Attendance
8000...Flair - Sting was in a cage.

4-9 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...
Conway drew Chris Champion...Shaska beat Stallion...
Steiner/Sullivan beat Santana/Kendall...Rotundo drew
Nikita...Fantastics over Midnight Express by DQ...Barbie/
Warlord/Ivan over Warriors/Dusty by DQ...Flair over
Sting...NOTES: Attendance 7000...Champion still hailing
from the year 2002...Hawk pinned Barbie, but a second
ref came in and overruled the decision citing an earlier
over the top rope DQ....Animal ripped off his mask
before match and tossed it to crowd...no juice on
the card...

4-15 BOSTON (NWA) - courtesy of John McAdam...
Al Perez beat Ricky Santana (9:47 - D+)...
Steiner/Sullivan over Kendall/Stallion (10:12
B-)...Nikita beat Larry Z (9:04 D+)...Fan-
tastics over Midnight Express by DQ (15:21
A)...Steve Williams drew Mike Rotundo (20:00
C-)...Warlord/Barbie lost to Road Warriors
(14:05 B-)...Dusty/Windham/Lex/Sting beat
Flair/Arn/Tully/Ivan (17:26 B+)...NOTES:
Attendance 4500 (disappointing)...Perez-San-
tana was rest hold city...after match, Santana
went after Gary Hart, punched him and Hart didn't
sell it...Hart decked Santana and left...Sullivan
(Boston native) got cheers...he worked mainly on opponent's
private parts....Cornette DQ'd for tennis racquet...
Doc disappointing but worked last two minutes...Ellering
pinned Jones in street fight (everything legal I guess)
eight man tag was a juice derby...nothing special
but good.

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MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Trivia time...first the answer to last issue's question. The question was, "What best selling writer started off as a wrestling writer for the New York Times?" The answer is Gay Talese. This issue's question is an easy one...I think. We all know that Harley Race held the NWA world's title on seven different occasions. He also held the AWA tag team title with partner Larry Hennig. The Question: How many times did they hold that championship. Answer next time.

Kelly is home from the hospital and I'd like to thank a special individual for his phone call to her while she was there. She came home Thursday and it looks like we'll be almost on time. My thanks to all of you in advance for understanding.

By the way, the only thing that really got put behind is the NAWF magazine. It is almost ready for mailing. I never realized how much there is to putting together a magazine, but I'll be better prepared for the next issue.

One thing that has become a topic of quite a few phone conversations lately that I'd better explain and that's "Who is this Emily Latrella and why does she say all those crazy things?" Emily is based on the old Saturday Night live character Emily Latella as portrayed by Gilda Radner. Emily was a little old lady who appeared with Chevy Chase on the Weekend updates and always did an editorial, but somehow she always misunderstood a couple of words (for example, she thought we were foolish for trying to conserve our country's "national racehorses" when the topic was actually conserving our country's natural resources). Emily has been the same person all but one time, however, anyone is welcome to write an "Emily" letter if you like. I have a whole stack of them and will use them from time to time when we're a little short on letters.

Here's a couple of reader requests...first of all, RON MARCUS of 3601 Junipero Serra, Daly city, CA 94104 has a very RARE tape...it's the shoot kick incident that happened back in November between Akira Maeda and Riki Choshu in Japan. I've seen the tape and it was taken with a hand held camera (the TV network and promotion wouldn't release the official footage because the kick was a shoot). I don't know how he got this and I'm not asking. But if you'd like a copy, write to him and he'll let you know how to get it either by trading or by an outright sale.

CHUCK SHEPHERD, Box 57141, Washington, DC 20037 has a collection of wrestling books and magazines dating back to the early 60's for sale. You can get a list by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to him.

Remember when I started working in the hose factory I said we also made ring ropes (actually we make the rubber hose that goes over the steel cables that become the ropes)? Here's the proof. On the cover of the June 88 edition of the Wrestler, Ric Flair is being punched by Sting in the corner of the ring. Notice the ropes. The word "Gates" is printed there. Just for trivial purposes, the use for that particular hose is nothing more than an all purpose hose. I mean, it has no specific use, so I guess ring ropes are okay. The guys at work went nuts over that revelation. Okay folks, wake up now.

Here's some late word in from the AWA...they are saying that Scott Hall and D J Peterson are both headed back in. Of course they also said that Masa Saito and Riki Choshu were coming in as well....

There are still copies of our yearbook available...also, for those of you who have been asking about back issues, as soon as I get some time this next week, I'll be putting together a list of what we have. Next issue I'll have complete details on how to get back issues.

So what's going on with Pro Wrestling this Week? I dunno. I've heard so many different stories, that I don't know what to believe. Local program directors are telling me that the syndication company went under and that the show isn't being produced anymore yet other callers are calling to ask what I think of the new format. From what I can piece together, Joe Pedicino is still doing the show with a new co-host (can't remember his name) who was hired by Paul E Dangerously as the heel counterpart of the team. I guess the show has gone to a half hour which means that some of the smaller independents may get less air time if any at all. The whole story behind the format change is still a bit murky to me but from what I understand, the syndication company did decide to stop some production of the show. Another took over. The angle they used on the show to explain things was that Paul E Dangerously had acquired 51% of the stock and as a result he fired both Gordon and Joe. They took the show off locally so I can't tell you how Joe got back in. Joe's explanation on the air was that rather than let Dangerously get control of the show they had decided just to cancel the thing. I'll try to have the whole story next issue.

We'll return to normal size next issue with a complete report on the Crocket Cup. We have two readers who will be providing reports, but if anyone else wants to provide one as well (the more opinions the better) please do so.

The Hogan movie is on again...but it won't be a biographical sketch as originally thought. The reason no one in Hollywood knew anything about it is because it is being done elsewhere. The only thing I can tell you now is that the location is a city somewhere in the South (Atlanta maybe?). Since the movie won't be a life story, that means we'll have to put up with Hogan's acting skills which he tried to show off on a TV pilot called Goldie and the Three Bears. After having seen that, I doubt that the Academy of Motion Pictures will be reserving a seat at next year's awards show (especially if they saw the Shammies).

Well, that wraps up another issue. We'll see you back on the pages in just a couple weeks. Bye.

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